THE

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F. LEYPOLDT, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, 37 PARK ROW, NEW-YORK.

VOL. VI. No. 13. NEW-YORK, Saturday, September 26, 1874. WHOLE No. 141.

Will be published October 1st.

A NEW NARRATIVE POEM

BY

DR. J. G. HOLLAND.

THE

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The Publishers' Weekly.

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The Book Trade Sale.

THE sale on Thursday, the seventh day, opened with a comparatively small attendance, and with but dull bidding, for which the rain was probably responsible. Among the imported works offered from the catalogue of Messrs. Scribner, Welford & Armstrong, five copies of the "first printed English New Testament, photo-lithographed from the unique fragments, British Museum, in *fac-simile*," by William Tynedale, brought $1.50 per copy ($3.75); while Thoms' "Human Longevity" was sold for $1 ($3.75); the Minor Works of Geo. Grote, by Alex. Bain, for $3.35 ($6); and Herbert Barry's "Ivan at Home," for $2.50 ($7.50). An $8.50-work, on "The Subterranean World," by Dr. Geo. Hartwig, largely illustrated, only received $2.12½; and Eastlake's "Gothic Revival," an imperial 8vo, with numerous wood-engravings (retailing at $13.50), brought $3.75. A handsomely illustrated work, describing "Rude Stone Monuments in All Countries," by James Fergusson ($9), sold for $2.50; a new Life of Lord Byron, by Karl Elze ($6.50), for $2.10; a prose translation of "Reynard the Fox," by Thomas Roscoe ($3), for $1.60; Carlyle's German Translations and "Wilhelm Meister," in 3 volumes ($4.50 a vol.), for $1.75; and his "Frederick the Great," in two volumes ($4.50 a vol.), for $2. The rain continuing, the poor attendance of Thursday did not materially improve Friday or Saturday. On the former day, the consignment of Messrs. R. Worthington & Co. stood first on the list. Their "Nature Pictures," a series of thirty wood-drawings, by J. M. Dell (large folio, $35), was taken at $9; "Old Merry's" "Round Robin," well illustrated ($3.75), at $1.75; Hume's Essays ($2.50), at $1.35; Warton's "History of English Poetry" ($5.25), at $2; Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" ($2.50), at 90 c.; Lucy Aikin's "Queen Elizabeth" ($1.50), at 50 c.; Arber's "English Reprints" (9 vols. at $1.50 a volume), 70 c.; Knight's "Half-Hours with the Best Authors" ($2.75 a vol., 10 vols.), at $1.10 a vol.; and the "Confessions" of Rousseau, at $1.25. On Saturday, the last day of the sale, Bohn's works were offered, and brought very fair prices. St. John's "Egypt and Nubia" (12 *s.*) sold for 50 c.; Englefield's "Ancient Vases" (£1 16*s.*), for $1.70; Gell and Gandy's "Pompeiana" (£7 4*s.*), for $3.40; "Gems of Art" (£8 8*s.*), for $3.50; Gillray's "Caricatures," for $17.50; Gould's "Humming-Birds," by W. C. L. Martin, for 80 c.; Greville's "Cryptogamic Flora" (£10 10*s.*) for $3; and Swift's "Gulliver's Travels," for $1. The Complete Works of the Rev. Robert Hall, in 6 vols. (£3 16*s.*), brought $1 per vol., and Lady Hamilton's "Attitudes" (£1 11*s.* 6*d.*) brought $1.25. Harris' "Aurelian" (£8 8*s.*) fell at $13.50, and his "Wild Sports of Southern Africa" (£2 2*s.*) at $3.75. After the disposal of Mr. Bohn's catalogue, the consignments of Messrs. A. Denham & Co. and J. Sabin & Sons were sold, and the sale concluded with the usual supplementary invoices.

NEXT week we are to have from the Harpers Mr. Charlton E. Lewis' "Popular History of Germany," which extends to above six hundred crown 8vo pages. There has been a curious lack of such a work, for which the large number of German-Americans and the general interest in that prominent nation should make a large sale. MacGahan's "Campaigning on the Oxus" is promised for the same date.

JULIAN HAWTHORNE'S recent romance, "Idolatry," is just ready at the Osgood's. It has a plot which rivals those of Miss Evans or the late Mr. Walworth, relating how an enthusiastic traveler metamorphosed his residence in Brooklyn into an Egyptian temple, and thenceforward performed all sorts of heathenish doings. But the Hawthorne mind is somewhat superior to those just mentioned, and the book is said to contain much exquisite imaginative work.

MRS. E. PRENTISS, author of "Stepping Heavenward," has recently completed a new work, entitled "Urbané and his Friends in Council," which will be published by A. D. F. Randolph & Co., who also have in press a new volume of poems selected and edited by the compiler of "The Changed Cross" and "The Shadow of the Rock." Both books to be ready this fall.

GENERAL CUSTER'S long-promised book, "My Life on the Plains," will be published in October by Sheldon & Co. It will be elegantly illustrated. General Custer's great reputation as an Indian fighter will give a charm to the book. Many of the wonderful incidents he relates, although strictly true, are stranger than fiction.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BOOKS JUST PUBLISHED.

The Prices in this List are for cloth lettered, unless otherwise indicated. Imported books are marked with an asterisk; Authors' and Subscription Books, or Books published at net prices, with two asterisks.

Alzog.—A Manual of Universal Church History. By Rev. John Alzog, D.D. Transl. with additions, from the Ninth and last German ed., by Rev. F. J. Pabisch, D.D., and Rev. Thomas S. Byrne, of Mount St. Mary's of the West. (In 3 vols.) Vol. 1. The Early Church or Greco-Roman Period. With three chronological tables and three ecclesiastico-geographical maps. 8°, pp. 13, 779. $5 *Clarke.*

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Mr. Leavitt has often said that the trade could buy the new books no cheaper at the trade sales than of the publishers, and this is to a certain extent proved by some of these prices. It is the publishers who are the losers by the considerable commission which the sale costs, but this they are often willing to lose in view of the large advances which the sales afford in the late summer, when extra capital is wanted for stocking up. That is a matter of business with them, and no business of the trade or

of other outside parties. But not unfrequently new books do sell away below par, and whole lines of any kind of book are apt to be slaughtered recklessly, under the necessary conditions of such sales. The bookseller is thus not only burdened often with "dead stock" that locks up his capital and chokes his business, but a direct temptation is afforded him to undersell. It is not his only opportunity, perhaps, to buy books under price, and therefore to offer them under price, but it is a chief opportunity.

Admitting, however, the full force of every thing that can be said for the present system of trade sales, there remains this, that it is a system under which it is utterly impossible to control the retail prices of books. The books at trade sales are bought for what they will bring, and they are at once offered at retail for what they will bring. Now back of this whole reform movement, as its strength, lies the possibility of being able to maintain publishers' prices by shortening discounts to those who persist in underselling. The publishers can not afford, to take the most notable examples, to allow the Messrs. Leggat, in New-York, and Mr. Swayne, in Brooklyn, to run out all the other booksellers in these two cities, as they are doing, and to finally seriously check the general sale of books, by having them sell at prices on which the average bookseller who understands his business and keeps up his stock can not be expected to live. We wish it to be understood that in referring by name to these gentlemen, we do not mean to cast the least slur upon their method of doing business. From their point of view, claiming no association but rather an opposition to other dealers, their business is perfectly honorable and legitimate; but they are ruining the regular trade, and this neither the publishers nor the public can afford. The same is to be said of Mr. Macy, who avowedly sells magazines below and books at cost price, for the sake of drawing custom to the other departments of his immense store.

Now so long as one buyer of this sort can buy at a trade sale, publishers' prices can not be maintained. It does not matter if all the books at trade sale were sold to one city alone, or to one house alone—that afflicts the whole trade. For that dealer scatters his underselling catalogue all over the country, and his price-list is like the single drop of prussic acid in the human system. This is, after all, the one unanswerable and unalterable objection to the trade sales.

We trust, therefore, that the system may be at once revised into the proposed book fair. The Committee of the Association having this matter in hand are now ready to receive suggestions from the trade, and we hope to publish in an early number Mr. Wiley's revision of his original plan, as a basis for such suggestions. Undoubtedly the Committee have a difficult work before them, and they need especially to propose, if possible, some method for meeting the advances desired by publishers on the stock pledged for this fair. Even with the present feeling of the necessity of supporting the retailers, it will be difficult to induce publishers to look outside, to the usual business channels, for their advance loans; but possibly if the present trade-sale house, as is understood, become the managers and the clearing-house for the fair, something of this kind can be managed then as now. We are heartily anxious to see inaugurated a great Book Fair, in which all the great houses of the country, and not alone those now represented at the sales, will take part, and this is an object in whose promotion the trade should most heartily join.

We had the choice between omission or the usual commission. We had the moral courage to decide for the former. We want to reform and make a beginning. Let us, for once, have the Weekly out on date, no matter how slim its appearance from the effort at orderly habits.

The publishers, jobbers, and retailers, by whom the committee to organize the New-York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore trade into a district association was appointed, met again at the Grand Central Hotel, New-York, on Thursday, at 2 o'clock. The committee reported its plan for the organization of the "Central Book Trade Association," but we can give no further particulars, as we go to press.

The Western Jobbers' Association is working like a charm, says Wesley Jones, of Burlington, and Wesley always means what he says.

As Mr. John A. Appleton, of the firm of Messrs. D. Appleton & Co., accompanied by his wife, was leaving the race-course at New-Dorp, Staten Island, on Tuesday evening, driving in a carriage, his horses became frightened and ran down the road. The carriage was overturned, and both of its occupants were thrown to the ground. Mr. Appleton was insensible when picked up, but no bones were broken, and he is now at his residence near Fort Wadsworth, recovering rapidly. Mrs. Appleton escaped almost unharmed.

Among the coming works of fiction promised by the Messrs. Harper for the fall is one bearing the attractive and suggestive title of "The Sack of Gold," by Miss Virginia W. Johnson. This is a purely American novel in scene and character, and succeeding Miss Johnson's previous book, "Joseph the Jew," anonymously published, the appearance of this new one will be looked for with interest.

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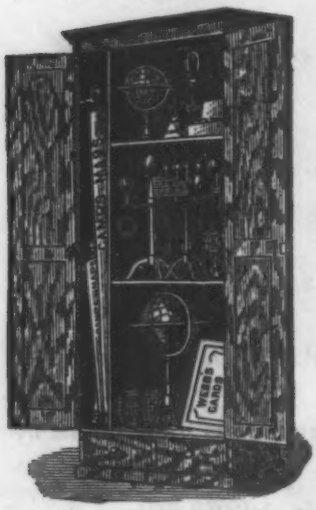

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